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USSR

INTELLOFAX 21

1953

4 June 1953

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SUBJECT: Analysis of Documents Issued by State Physicians at time of Stalin's Death - Case 13298

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SOURCE: [redacted]

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1. First of all, let me say that the documents which I have examined are most convincing and describe very good medical practice. This does not mean, however, that they could not be completely fabricated. By and large, the phraseology and general context are very much like what would appear in similar statements in this country. The diagnosis was a good one.

2. The symptoms and cause of the illness after the 1 March stroke offer no indication of Stalin's probable condition prior to this stroke. In other words, the stroke could have happened in the abscence of hypertension. Similarly, there is nothing in the autopsy report to indicate a prior stroke.

3. I can make no categorical statement regarding probable personality changes suffered by Stalin as a result of an assumed hypertension condition, but generally speaking, it is the new thought processes and mental capabilities which become less efficient or less competent. What has been learned earlier remains unimpaired in the period of deterioration. In old, familiar areas, the mind remains as alert and active as ever. My opinion in this matter is substantiated by a similar opinion given me by one of my colleagues, a leading psychiatrist. I do not think that obstinacy is a proper word to describe any change which may take place. Irascibility seems to me to be a better term.

4. I remember that around 1944 or 1945 there was a rumor, publicly quoted, that Stalin had suffered a stroke and that shortly thereafter he went away for a long rest at one of the Black Caspian Sea resorts. The autopsy report, however, gives no indication of any evidence of this previous stroke.

- end -

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